

CUMBRIA STRATEGIC WASTE PARTNERSHIP

Minutes of a meeting of the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership (CSWP) held on Wednesday 25 November 2009 at 1.00pm at Cumbria Rural Enterprise Agency.

PRESENT

Mr R Bloxham (Chairman)

Mr A Holliday – Copeland Borough Council
Mr A J Markley – Cumbria County Council
Mr M Tonkin – Eden District Council
Mrs B Woof – South Lakeland District Council

Also in Attendance

Mr M Allman - Cumbria County Council
Ms J Carrol - Copeland Borough Council
Mr N Christian - Cumbria County Council
Mr M Gardner - Carlisle City Council
Mr R Kitchen - South Lakeland District Council
Mr I Laird - Barrow Borough Council
Mr R Watson - Government Office North West
Mr A Yates - Eden District Council

	ACTION
<p>1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Mr P Feehilly, Mr T Knowles, Mrs M Graham, Mr S Standage and Mr K Williams.</p>	
<p>2. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST</p> <p>All Council Members declared a personal interest in items of business relating to their respective authorities.</p>	
<p>3. PRESENTATION</p> <p>The Chairman explained that the Shanks Waste Management Works and Delivery Compliance Manager was unable to attend the meeting as he was currently attending to urgent issues arising from the recent flooding in the County. The Chairman proposed that this item should be deferred to a future meeting of the Partnership to enable the Shanks' representative to make</p>	

this presentation.

AGREED, that this item of business be deferred and that the Shanks Waste Management Limited Works and Delivery Compliance Manager be invited to attend the next meeting of the CSWP to make the presentation

MA and NC to action

4. RESPONSE TO RECENT FLOODING IN CUMBRIA

The Chairman explained that he had agreed that a verbal report on action taken in response to the recent flooding in Cumbria should be considered at this meeting of the Partnership.

Mr Christian provided an update on the current situation, highlighting the following issues of relevance to the CSWP:

HWRCs – most had stayed in operation, with some temporary closure at Ambleside and delayed opening times at Kendal and Maryport. Opening hours at the Wigton site had been temporarily extended. The permit scheme had been suspended during the clean-up operation and temporary permits were being issued during this time. The Environment Agency had agreed to a temporary relaxation of the requirement that gypsum and plasterboard be separated out before waste was landfilled. It had been agreed that commercial waste from flood affected premises could be taken at local HWRCs for the time being. The possibility of opening a temporary HWRC in Cockermouth was being considered.

Skips – it had been agreed that the cost of disposal of waste in skips in flood affected areas of Allerdale would be met by the County Council.

Communication and Project Management – the County Council was coordinating communications on issues relating to the floods. Sellafield had offered project management expertise for the clean-up operation.

Recycling of materials from demolition – a lot of this had been stockpiled in private contractors' skips and would be dealt with by the appropriate contractors in due course.

Disposal of Farm Animal Carcasses – this was likely to be dealt with through the national fallen stock scheme.

Updates on the effect of the flooding on waste collections were also given by District Council Members and officers as follows:

Carlisle – There had been some flooding of the Willowholme depot affecting the bin storage area.

Copeland - waste collection at Millom had been delayed and there would be further implications for waste collection if Holmrook Bridge were to be closed.

South Lakeland - some waste collections had been affected.

The Chair thanked Members and Officers for their updates. He explained that the Allerdale representatives had not been able to attend the meeting as a result of the heavy impact of the flooding in their area. On behalf of the Partnership he offered sympathy to all affected.

5. MINUTES

AGREED, that the Minutes of the meeting of the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership held on 14 October 2009 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the previous meeting of the Partnership.

7. DRAFT MINUTES OF THE CUMBRIA STRATEGIC WASTE PARTNERSHIP OFFICER GROUP MEETING

The Partnership received the draft minutes of the meeting of the Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership Officer Group held on 6 November 2009.

Attention was drawn to the update on the activities of the Enforcement Group and Members asked that the notes of any Enforcement Group meetings be submitted to the Partnership for information. It was also noted that the Environment Agency was conducting an exercise involving an audit of the waste stream.

AGREED, that the minutes be received.

8. “RESOURCE CUMBRIA” ANNUAL CONFERENCE – MARCH 2010

Mr Gardner presented a report outlining proposals for the Resource Cumbria Annual Conference, drawn up by a working

group involving officers from a number of authorities.

It was proposed that the conference be held in early March 2010 and the report gave details of the following matters being considered in preparation for the conference:

- Possible venues
- A proposed theme (partnership working)
- Suggestions for presentations and workshops
- The target audience
- Initial proposals for costs and funding

The Partnership was invited to choose a venue for the conference. Five alternatives set out in an appendix to the report were considered in detail, with members drawing attention to considerations of cost, location and capacity, including opportunities for potential sponsors to set up stands and display promotional material.

AGREED, that

- (1) The Resource Cumbria Annual Conference be held in March 2010, with arrangements for the day to be made as detailed in the report.
- (2) The Chairman, in consultation with the officer coordinating arrangements on behalf of the Officer Group, be authorised to take the final decision on the conference venue in the light of the Partnership's preference for Rheged, if this can be secured at a favourable price and will allow sponsorship, with Carlisle Racecourse as an alternative to this.
- (3) A further update be given at the next CSWP meeting.

Chairman
MG to action

9. CSWP UPDATE PAPER

Mr Christian introduced an update on the activities of the CSWP and its individual partner organisations. Reference was made to the following issues:

Enhanced Partnership Working

Mr Gardner explained that this issue had been discussed at the Officer Group meeting on 6 November. It had been decided that in the absence of a Development Officer, it was necessary to investigate what external support would be available to assist in

pursuing the question of enhanced partnership working. Potential support, in the form of funding, was available from the Cumbria Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (CIEP). It was proposed that, with Members' approval, officers should draw up a bid for external support to be submitted to CIEP's Programme Board with the aim of renewing momentum on this issue.

In considering and approving this proposal Members discussed the question of officer support for the Partnership following the departure of the CSWP Development Officer. Some concern was expressed that the County Council had not yet appointed anyone to take on this support officer role, but it was noted that the Chairman had been advised that continued support for the Partnership was regarded as a key outcome of the restructuring process that the County Council was currently undertaking. It was agreed that the Partnership would await the outcome of this restructuring exercise and that, at the next Officer Group meeting, a brief for the bid to CIEP for external support would be drawn up without prejudicing any steps that might be required in the future to secure officer support.

Inter-Authority Agreement

The Partnership was advised that two schedules in the Agreement required amendment following completion of the County Councils' contract with Shanks Waste Management (Schedule 5 Part A, relating to the "Waste Delivery Parameters" and Schedule 6 Part B, relating to "Tipping Away Payments"). Action on this would be considered by the Officer Group at its next meeting. Members observed that that District Councils had approved the Agreement as a non-legally binding document and that any steps to make it legally binding would therefore involve reconsideration of it by those local authorities. The Chairman asked that the document be resubmitted for approval by the relevant local authorities following the amendment of the two schedules that had been referred to in the report.

NC to action

Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs)

The Partnership was advised that the contract between Shanks Waste Management and the County Council included an agreement to carry out works to bring HWRC infrastructure up to a standard that would be maintained throughout the life of the contract. Following a joint survey it appeared likely that the cost would significantly exceed the provisional sum in the contract and the County Council was therefore proposing to make a bid to the CSWP for funding through the Waste Infrastructure Capital Grant scheme which was currently under spent. Members drew attention to possible calls on the Waste Infrastructure Capital Grant scheme to meet the cost of repairs to flood damaged bring

sites. The Chairman asked that this matter be considered by the Officer Group. Mr Christian noted this, but advised that the rules governing the scheme might restrict any roll forward of funding into next year. However, he promised that any unspent funding would be rolled forward if this were allowed.

NC to action

Separate skips for the disposal of gypsum-based products had now been provided at a number of HWRCs. Steps were being taken to expand this service, but it would be impossible to provide such facilities at the smaller sites.

The report covered proposals to extend a recycling scheme for paint from the Wigton HWRC to further sites, where space allowed, together with arrangements for the renovation of bicycles from Kendal HWRC to raise money for charity. Issues affecting the development of HWRCs were outlined, covering a replacement for the Frizington site and the redevelopment of sites at Millom, Grange over Sands and Barrow.

Waste Infrastructure Capital Grant

Details of the following bids that had been considered by the Officer Group at its meeting on 6 November were attached to the report for Members' consideration.

- Food Waste Digester Trial at a cost of £7,200
- Replacement of paper/card containers at a cost of £21,555
- Replacement of screening/fencing at bring sites at a cost of £3,275
- Provision of communal recycling bins at a cost of £4,210

The Chair asked that criteria be established for use in assessing future bids for Waste Infrastructure Capital Grant funding.

NC to action

Awards for CSWP Waste Prevention Schemes

It was reported that the R Factor competition had received an award as Best Green Public Sector Campaign at the Green Awards for Excellence in Creativity in Sustainability. Members welcomed this news and agreed that the Chairman would draft a letter conveying congratulations to the winning school and thanking all those who had taken part in the competition.

MA and
Chairman to
action

DEFRA Municipal Waste Statistics 2008/09

An appendix to the report presented data that had recently been published by DEFRA showing that the CSWP was performing well in comparison to other authorities in the North West. A Member raised a query in relation to delays in obtaining Waste Data Flow statistics and Mr Christian promised to look into this.

NC to action

AGREED, that

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) Officers draw up a bid for external funding support for the Partnership to be submitted to the Cumbria Improvement and Efficiency Partnership Programme Board;
- (3) On completion of amendments to Schedule 5 Part A and Schedule 6 Part B the revised Inter-Authority Agreement be resubmitted for approval by the relevant local authorities as a legally binding document;
- (4) Criteria be established for use by the Partnership in assessing future bids for Waste Infrastructure Capital Grant funding;
- (5) Waste Infrastructure Capital Grant funding be provided as follows:
 - Cumbria Strategic Waste Partnership – Food Waste Digester Trial - £7,200
 - Allerdale Borough Council – Replacement paper/card containers used for recycling at various bring sites throughout Allerdale - £21,555
 - Allerdale Borough Council – Renewal and Replacement of existing screening/fencing to recycling bring sites - £3,275
 - Carlisle City Council – Provision of 50 communal recycling bins for residential apartment blocks - £4,210.

10. GONW UPDATE

Mr Watson provided an update on the following issues:

- DEFRA statistics
- Consultation on Controlled Waste Regulations Schedule 2
- Consultation on Definition of Municipal Waste
- DEFRA Position Statement on Commercial and Industrial Waste.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Barrow Borough Council Contract

Mr Laird reported that Barrow Borough Council had now approved a new contract with Biffa.

12. RELEASE OF REPORTS

All reports presented to this meeting of the CSWP, except the draft minutes of the Officer Group meeting, could be released into the public domain.

13. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The Partnership noted dates for future meetings and agreed the dates of meetings for the remainder of 2010 and the first half of 2011 (all to be held at the Cumbria Rural Enterprise Agency, Penrith) as follows:

- 28 July 2010
- 1 September 2010
- 13 October 2010
- 24 November 2010
- 5 January 2011
- 16 February 2011
- 30 March 2011
- 11 May 2011
- 22 June 2011

It was also agreed that the next scheduled meeting of the Partnership on 6 January 2010, could be cancelled, on the understanding that outstanding matters could be dealt with through a sub-group meeting to discuss progress in arranging the Conference and that the revised Inter-Authority Agreement could be circulated to local authorities for approval.

The next meeting of the Partnership would, therefore, be held on 17 February 2010, starting at 1.00 pm.

The meeting ended at 3.30 pm.